

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, NU

SUBJECT: BILATERAL WITH NICARAGUA AT IDB MEETING

1. AT NICARAGUAN REQUEST U.S. DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES NACHMANOFF (TREASURY), ARELLANO (STATE), AND DUNGAN (U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDB) MET IN VANCOUVER APRIL 19 WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE GENIE AMAYA, PLANNING MINISTER GONZALEZ ESPINOZA AND MESSRS. INCER, PEREIRA SALAZAR, AND PARRALES. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS IDB RIO BLANCO LOAN TO NICARAGUA.

2. NICARAGUAN DELEGATION OBSERVED THAT THEIR COUNTRY HAS BEEN A HIGH PER CAPITA RECIPIENT OF IDB CREDITS WHICH HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN AIDING SMALL FARMERS, BUILDING A
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POWDERED MILK FACILITY, EXPANDING URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND HOUSING AND FINANCING RURAL HEALTH CENTERS. SUBJECT LOAN IS TO BE USED FOR A ROAD WHICH IS A CRITICAL PART OF AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM. LAND ALONG THE ROAD BELONGS TO GON AND WILL BE PARCELLED OUT AS PART OF LAND REFORM PROGRAM. ALSO ROAD WILL REDUCE URBAN MIGRATION PRESSURES AND CONTRIBUTE TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. HOWEVER, THEY WERE

CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE HESITATION FROM IDB ON LOAN DUE TO "ISOLATED" HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CASES. THEY ALSO WERE WORRIED THAT INACCURATE U.S. PRESS CRITICISM IS INFLUENCING U.S. VIEWS.

3. U.S. DELEGATION OUTLINED U.S. GENERAL APPROACH ON FUTURE IDB CREDITS WITH INCREASED EMPHASIS ON THE POOREST COUNTRIES AS WELL AS NEEDIEST IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THEY HAD NOT YET REVIEWED DETAILS OF RIO BLANCO LOAN BUT NOTED THAT PROJECT WOULD BE ASSESSED ON ITS MERITS. U.S. DELEGATION NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS A CENTRAL PART OF OVERALL U.S. POLICY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN U.S. APPROACH IN THE BANKS. HOWEVER, U.S. REVIEWS EACH SITUATION CASE BY CASE AND HAS MADE NO PREJUDGMENT ON THIS QUESTION IN REGARD TO ITS POSITION ON SUBJECT LOAN. U.S. TRADITIONALLY HAS PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN NICARAGUA AND HOPES THAT THE SITUATION WILL PERMIT CONTINUATION OF COOPERATION. AS TO PRESS REPORTS, U.S. DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT GON INFORM U.S. EMBASSY OF FACTS CONCERNING PRESS REPORTS IT CONSIDERS INACCURATE, AND ASSURED NICARAGUANS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT TRIES TO EVALUATE INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE IN DETERMINING ITS POSITIONS. VANCE

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